

# Wayne County Ethics Board

Carron L. Pinkins - Chair  
Edward McCall Thomas - Vice-Chair  
Sue C. Carnell  
Mona Hammoud  
Freman Hendrix  
Robert P. Young



The Guardian Building  
500 Griswold, Suite 861  
Detroit, MI 48226  
Phone: 313-224-0993  
Fax: 313-224-7484  
wcethics@waynecounty.com

## NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE WAYNE COUNTY ETHICS BOARD

**Wednesday, August 23, 2017 – 9:00 a.m.**  
**Hearing Room 704, Guardian Building, 500 Griswold, Detroit, MI 48226**

The Wayne County Ethics Board has scheduled the meeting of the Board on Wednesday, **August 23, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.** in Hearing Room 704, Guardian Building, 500 Griswold, Detroit, MI 48226 to consider the following:

- A. Roll Call
- B. Approval of the Minutes of the June 1, 2017 meeting
- C. Unfinished Business
- D. New Business
- 1. Review of the Scope of Services for Avery K. Williams of Williams Acosta, PLLC (of Detroit), who is the Ethics Board attorney.
- 2. The complaint by Beverly Kindle-Walker against Treasurer Eric Sabree, citing sections 40-4(f) and 40-4(g) of the Ethics Ordinance.

Note 1: This meeting is called in accordance with provisions of the "Open Meetings Act", Act No. 267, Public Acts of 1976. :

Note 2: In accordance with the provisions of Rule 3, "The Chairperson of a Committee, when requested in advance of any given meeting, may permit a person making such request to address the Committee on any matter on the Agenda. Such address shall not be longer than the time allotted by the Chairperson, subject to the approval of the Committee".

- E. Such other matters as may be properly submitted before the Committee.

F. Public Comments.

G. Adjournment

Note 3: In accordance with the provisions of Rule 3, "The Chairperson of a Committee, when requested in advance of any given meeting, may permit a person making such request to address the Committee on any matter on the Agenda. Such address shall not be longer than the time allotted by the Chairperson, subject to the approval of the Committee".

**WAYNE COUNTY ETHICS BOARD**

**August 23, 2017**

**B. Approval of the minutes of the June 1, 2017 meeting**

## MINUTES WAYNE COUNTY ETHICS BOARD

Monday, June 1, 2017 – 8:30 A.M.

Hearing Room 704, Guardian Building, 500 Griswold, Detroit, MI, 48226.

- A. Roll Call 8:40 A.M.
- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Mona Hammoud         | - Present |
| Carron L. Pinkins    | - Present |
| Edward McCall Thomas | - Present |
| Robert P. Young      | - Present |
- B. Pinkins/Young **Approved.** The minutes from the April 28, 2016 meeting. Motion Carried.
- C. Unfinished Business
- D. New Business
1. Introduction of members
- Election of officers
- a. Chairperson
- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Young/Thomas | <b>Approved.</b> Nomination for Mr. Pinkins to serve as Chair of the Wayne County Ethics Board. Motion Carried. |
|--------------|---|
- b. Vice-Chairperson
- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Young/Hammoud | <b>Approved.</b> Nomination for Mr. Thomas to serve as Vice-Chair of the Wayne County Ethics Board. Motion Carried. |
|---------------|---|
2. Ethics complaint alleging violations of multiple sections of the Ethics Ordinance. Complainant: Barbara Bassett. Respondent: Wayne County Clerk Cathy M. Garrett.
- Chairman Pinkins stated that Wayne County Clerk Cathy M. Garrett was not able to attend the meeting, but she did send a response to the complaint to the board.
- The complaint, Barbara Bassett, provided a description of her complaint for items D.2 -4.

3. Ethics complaint alleging violations of multiple sections of the Ethics Ordinance. Complainant: Barbara Bassett. Respondent: Zenna Elhasan, director, Wayne County Office of Corporation Counsel.
4. Ethics complaint alleging violations of multiple sections of the Ethics Ordinance. Complainant: Barbara Bassett. Respondent: Souriana Hammoud, assistant corporation counsel, Wayne County Office of Corporation Counsel.

Pinkins/Thomas

**Approved.** Dismissal of claims D.2 - 4.  
Motion Carried.

The Board found insufficient evidence that the ordinance was violated and dismissed the complaints.

- D. Such other matters as may be properly submitted before the Board.
- E. Public Comments.

Pinkins/Thomas

Adjournment: 9:44 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Darcel Brown  
Legislative Research Assistant

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# Wayne County Ethics Board

Mona Hammoud  
Carron L. Pinkins  
Edward McCall Thomas  
Robert P. Young



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## NOTICE OF MEETING

### OF THE

### WAYNE COUNTY ETHICS BOARD

**Thursday, June 1, 2017 – 8:30 a.m.**

**Hearing Room 704, Guardian Building, 500 Griswold, Detroit, MI 48226**

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- A. Roll Call
- B. Approval of the Minutes of the April 28, 2016 meeting
- C. Unfinished Business
- D. New Business
  - 1. Introduction of members
  - Election of officers:
    - a. Chairperson
    - b. Vice-Chairperson
  - 2. Ethics complaint alleging violations of multiple sections of the Ethics Ordinance. Complainant: Barbara Bassett. Respondent: Wayne County Clerk Cathy M. Garrett.
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- 4. Ethics complaint alleging violations of multiple sections of the Ethics Ordinance. Complainant: Barbara Bassett. Respondent: Souriana Hammoud, assistant corporation counsel, Wayne County Office of Corporation Counsel.
- E. Such other matters as may be properly submitted before the Committee.
- F. Public Comments.
- G. Adjournment

Note 3: In accordance with the provisions of Rule 3, "The Chairperson of a Committee, when requested in advance of any given meeting, may permit a person making such request to address the Committee on any matter on the Agenda. Such address shall not be longer than the time allotted by the Chairperson, subject to the approval of the Committee".

**WAYNE COUNTY ETHICS BOARD**

**August 23, 2017**

**D.1.- The Scope of Services for Avery K. Williams of Williams Acosta,  
PLLC**



## **EXHIBIT A SCOPE OF SERVICE**

The County engages the Firm and the Firm agrees to faithfully and diligently perform the Services set forth in this Agreement consistent with the standard of legal practice in the community. The Services are: as determined by Corporation Counsel related to this matter.

### **Specify Services**

Included in the Services are any meetings with County staff required to accomplish the purpose of this Agreement as well as attendance at any County Commission or other board or agency meetings related to the purpose of this Agreement. The Firm shall not make an initial contact with any County staff or elected official until the attorney designated by the Corporation Counsel has advised the Firm it is cleared to make the contact with the client. This will avoid confusion of the clients.

Provide general legal services to the Wayne County Ethics Board with regard to complaints and requests for advisory opinions. Draft memoranda of law as requested. Attend all Board meetings, providing legal advice if requested.

Services include, but are not limited to:

- Provide initial review and process complaints as required by the Rules of Procedure of the Wayne County Ethics Board, which includes:
- Review complaints as to form and advise Ethics Board members;
- Serve complaints, answers, replies and witness lists on the parties, with a copy to the Commission Clerk of non-privileged correspondence and materials;
- Prepare and serve a scheduling order consistent with the timelines provided in the ethics ordinance, with a copy to the Commission Clerk; and,
- Provide Board members with a complete file and sufficient time for review prior to a hearing date.
- Review any requests for advisory opinions as to form and advise Ethics Board members
- Draft a memorandum of law if the Board deems it necessary to assist its understanding of any legal issues raised by the request for advisory opinion; and,
- Draft advisory opinions if requested by the Board
- Attend all Board meetings and hearings and respond to process questions or respond to general legal questions regarding such issues as the Open Meetings Act, the Freedom of Information Act, media inquiries, conflicts of interest, and parliamentary procedure, for example.

- Consistent with Wayne County Ordinance Sect. 73-1 *et seq.*, which:
  - requires prompt reporting of criminal allegations (Sec. 73-3(a)(1));
  - requires that all reports receive prompt and discreet follow up (Sec. 73-3(a)(1));
  - recognizes that incriminating evidence can be hidden or destroyed (Sec 73-3(a)(9));
  - recognizes that allegations of wrong-doing can be unfounded and disclosure may result in infringement of the civil rights of the accused, with substantial personal and County liability for slander or libel (Sec. 73-3(a)(9));
  - prohibits disclosure of even the existence of an investigation (Sec. 73-1(a)(10));
  - refuses to defend elected officials, officers or employees from slander or libel lawsuits if the policy is violated (Sec. 73-1(a)(6)); and,
  - threatens charges of prosecution for obstruction of justice if an action is taken that jeopardizes or compromises an investigation (Sec. 73-1(a)(8));
- all complaints that allege criminal conduct should be promptly and discretely forwarded to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office by counsel after discussion with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Ethics Board.
- Insure that the Chair, Vice-Chair, and individual Board members are kept appropriately advised of all issues that may arise.

The Firm must, upon reasonable notice, be available to participate in any proceeding, whether legal, administrative or otherwise, or in any internal County preparatory meetings for the proceeding, in order to assist the County in any matter relating to the purpose or outcome of this Agreement. The County will compensate the Firm under a separately negotiated agreement for any Services rendered pursuant to this section.

The Firm must also abide by the guidelines and rules set-forth in the Litigation Protocol for Outside Counsel attached as Exhibit C.

**WAYNE COUNTY ETHICS BOARD**

**August 23, 2017**

**D.2.- The complaint by Beverly Kindle-Walker against Treasurer Eric Sabree, citing sections 40-4(f) and 40-4(g) of the Ethics Ordinance**



## Wayne County Ethics Board Complaint Form

The Guardian Building - 500 Griswold, Suite 861 - Detroit, MI 48226

Phone: 313-224-0993 - Fax: 313-224-7484 - [wcethics@waynecounty.com](mailto:wcethics@waynecounty.com)

### Wayne County Ethics Board Members

Sidney Bogan, chair - Carron L. Pinkins, vice-chair - Michael R. Griffie -  
Mona Hammoud - Stella Szczesny - Robert P. Young - one vacancy

*Under Wayne County Enrolled Ordinance No. 2014-734, any employee or resident is encouraged to report any instances of unethical behavior by a Wayne County employee or elected official to the Wayne County Ethics Board for further investigation.*

*Please type or clearly print the information below, have this form notarized (see reverse), and return the completed original form by U.S. mail to the Wayne County Ethics Board at 500 Griswold, Suite 861, Detroit, MI 48226.*

### Complainant information:

Your name: Beverly Kindle - Walker

Your address: 7925 EAST LAFAYETTE Detroit, MI 48214

Your phone number: (313) 618-9749 cell, (313) 822-2237 (res)

*Who is the public servant involved in alleged ethics violation? (If there is more than one public servant involved in your complaint, please submit a form for each person.)*

Public servant's name: ERIC Sabree,

Public servant's title (if known): Wayne County Treasurer

*You must list at least one standard of prohibited ethical conduct that you believe was violated in the space below. (Please refer to the Ethics Ordinance.)*

Using public funds for personal gain.  
Using county employees for political campaign.

*Please explain, providing any facts that support your belief that prohibited ethical conduct occurred. Please use the back of the form if necessary.*

Previous selected Wayne County Treasurer Richard Hathaway resigned after 3 mos in the position effective April 8, 2016. County paid for bill boards and t.v. announcements were running under Hathaway name as Treasurer advising the public that

taxes were due on March 31, 2016. However, on March 18 the media blitz began with a messages from Eric Sabree as the Chief Deputy Treasurers advising people to pay their taxes by March 31, 2016. Since Mr Hathaway was still the Treasurer why was expenditures made to promote Sabree's name at taxpayers expenses. <sup>Sabree filed to run for Treasurer on March 22, 2016.</sup> After March 31st, the new blitz was "pay your taxes by June 7th". On April 4, 2016 Sabree was selected Treasurer which again new media blitz was on that taxes should be paid by June 7 per new Treasurer. After June 7th new media blitz reflected another "extension" until June 30 which did not have the correct information in the message. Paid Public Service Announcements at the expense of Wayne County taxpayers for thinly veiled Political campaigns, is an abuse of public trust, misuse of funds for political personal gains. He has used staff to promote the Treasurers office and his election campaign in tandem. The latest campaign blitz is to "remind" people to pay or keep up with their payments. One regular (non electronic) billboard cost \$6,000 per month and there are easily <sup>approximately</sup> 20 of that type not to mention the electronic billboards. The paid for by taxpayers running on all media outlets in prime time is at an astronomical cost to Wayne County and is not cost effective judging from the slight improvements in responding to ad campaign.

<sup>Also countywide mailings dated June 20, 2016 to introduce Sabree was timed for absentee ballots.</sup>  
Your signature below affirms that you have read the complaint above, that you know its contents, and that you believe that the allegations that you have made are true. **YOU MUST HAVE YOUR SIGNATURE NOTARIZED.**

Signature: Deverly Kinde-Walker

Acknowledged by: Deverly Kinde-Walker before me on the 21st

day of July, 2016

Signature: [Signature]

Printed name Wanda L. Moragne

Notary public, State of Michigan, County of Wayne

My commission expires 3-9-2019

Acting in the County of Wayne

WANDA L. MORAGNE  
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF MI  
COUNTY OF WAYNE  
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES Mar 9, 2019  
ACTING IN COUNTY OF

Wayne



# ERIC R. SABREE

## WAYNE COUNTY TREASURER

**CHRISTA J. MCLELLAN**  
Deputy Treasurer/Finance

**KIM L. HOMAN**  
Deputy Treasurer/Land Management

June 20, 2016

Dear Wayne County Resident and Fellow Taxpayer:

As your new Wayne County Treasurer, I appreciate the opportunity to introduce myself and provide you with an update on the progress occurring in my Office. It is a great honor and privilege for me to serve as your Treasurer, and it is a responsibility I take seriously.

In April, 2016, after five years with the Treasurer's Office, having served in the positions of Chief Deputy Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer of Land Management, I was appointed Treasurer. Five years prior to those positions, I was Chief of the Real Estate and Tax Sections of the Wayne County Corporation Counsel focusing on real property and tax issues. In total, I've provided over thirty years of public service to Detroit and other Wayne County communities.

On a personal level, my wife, Badriyyah and I have been married for thirty-six years and are devoted to our family of three wonderful adult children, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter. We're looking forward to another granddaughter later this month. I have been a resident of Wayne County for over fifty years. Badriyyah and I raised our children here and they have chosen to make their homes here in Wayne County, as well. We value community service and our family has a long history of working to help people maintain and restore components in their lives that provide them with the dignity they and their families deserve.

The Treasurer's Office is responsible for the receipt, custody, investment and disbursement of all county funds on behalf of the 43 municipalities in Wayne County. I have a staff of about eighty people involved in managing all the finance, forfeiture and foreclosure activities. This responsibility includes investing the County's funds, assisting taxpayers with foreclosure prevention options, and conducting the largest tax foreclosure auction in the United States. In addition, the Treasurer's Office administers the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund, which allows the municipalities and other taxing authorities such as schools, libraries, and parks to continue operating without interruption.

As Treasurer and as a taxpayer myself, one of the most important goals I have set is for all Wayne County taxpayers to have a positive experience while conducting business with the Treasurer's Office. My staff and I are dedicated to serving taxpayers with respect, efficiency and professionalism.

Another important goal is to ensure that people with past due taxes have every opportunity to remain in their homes. The Treasurer's Office makes various payment agreement options available for Wayne County taxpayers facing foreclosures. Currently, owner occupants can benefit from a lower interest rate with a payment agreement; however, the deadline for entering into any payment agreement is June 30, 2016. We are proactively sending notices and making calls to eligible taxpayers to inform them about important foreclosure prevention tools. As a result, the number of parcels headed into foreclosure and auction this year is already lower than last year, and we are working to further decrease that number before the end of June.



As part of the outreach efforts described above, our phone system is being updated to enable callers to speak directly with a representative during business hours. We have added evening office hours on Wednesday nights until 6:30 pm, and we have enhanced our property tax payment process to include options for residents to pay taxes online or by phone.

I am excited about several innovative projects the Treasurer's Office is implementing to enhance the services offered to Wayne County taxpayers.

1. This summer the Treasurer's Office will begin accepting delinquent tax payments via kiosks that will accept tax payments by cash, credit card, and checks. There will be a network of approximately 30 kiosks placed throughout Metro-Detroit increasing the convenience for taxpayers.
2. Our Office is partnering with GreenPath Financial Wellness, a non-profit credit counseling company, to provide taxpayers with the tools they need to be successful in remaining compliant with their payment plans and current taxes. GreenPath will provide free credit counseling services to taxpayers entering into payment plans and to those who have fallen behind on their current plans. It is expected that GreenPath will provide services to over 5,000 Wayne County delinquent taxpayers in the next year.
3. We are fortunate to partner with Michigan State University to launch the "Innovate Gov" program. This competitive program will expose college and graduate students to local government. The interns placed in the Treasurer's Office will be tasked with developing and implementing an innovative way to reach 'at risk' taxpayers before they fall into foreclosure. The students will create a procedure by which my Staff proactively identifies taxpayers as soon as they miss a payment, and directs the taxpayers to the resources that best meet their individual needs. We believe that this program will increase the probability of taxpayer compliance.
4. The Treasurer's Office is again partnering with the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) to assist eligible taxpayers experiencing financial difficulty paying their property taxes. The Step Forward Program is accepting applications directly on their website at [www.stepforwardmichigan.org](http://www.stepforwardmichigan.org), and our Office encourages homeowners with delinquent taxes to take advantage of this program.
5. Other programs are available that include provisions for veterans and clients of the Department of Human Services.

In closing, thank you for your trust in me as your Wayne County Treasurer. I look forward to providing enhanced services for all our taxpayers. I welcome your comments, suggestions, and questions. Please email me at: [www.taxinfo@waynecounty.com](mailto:www.taxinfo@waynecounty.com). Our main phone number is (313) 224-5990, and our website is: [www.treasurer.waynecounty.com](http://www.treasurer.waynecounty.com).

Sincerely,



Eric R. Sabree

Eric R. Sabree  
Wayne County Treasurer  
PO Box 441967  
Detroit, MI 48244-1967

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*C021 525/1/6 0008

Wayne County Resident  
7925 E Lafayette St  
Detroit, MI 48214-2418





**CERTIFIED MAIL®**

Beverly Kindle-Walker  
7925 East Lafayette  
Detroit, MI 48214



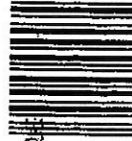
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Wayne County Ethics Board  
500 Griswold, Suite 861  
Detroit, MI 48226

48226-44407E





**Eric Sabree**  
Chief Deputy Treasurer

**Needs Your Help To Spread  
The Word**

Mark the Date and Take Action Before

**March 31, 2016**

Last Day To Pay Your Property Taxes To  
Avoid Foreclosure

